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Precedence: R

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From: DOD, ARMY, ORGANIZATIONS, AHRC, HRC AG(UC), HRC MILITARY AWARDS BR(UC)

Subject: Delegation of Wartime Approval Authority to Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I)

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A. AR 600-8-22, Military Awards, 11 Dec 06.

B. DoD 1348.33-M, Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, Sep 96.

C. DMS Message, dated 15 Feb 07, Subj: Changes to the Army Wartime Awards Concurrence Procedures.

D. DMS Message, dated 8 Jun 05, Subj: Purple Heart (PH) Revocation Authority.

E. HQDA LTR 600-05-3, dated 21 Oct 05, Subj: Global War on Terrorism Unit Recognition Certificates.

F. DMS Message, dated 21 Jul 06, Subj: Approval Process for Posthumous Valor Award Recommendations.

G. HQDA Message, dated 9 Feb 06, Subj: Campaign Participation Credit for the GWOT Conflict.

1. The purpose of this message is to announce that the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve Affairs) has delegated to General (GEN) David H. Petraeus, Commanding General of MNF-I, authority to award wartime decorations of the Silver Star (SS) and below to U.S. and foreign military personnel assigned, attached, or OPCON to MNF-I; the Valorous Unit Awards (VUA) and Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) for U.S. Army battalions or smaller size units under his command; the Purple Heart (PH) and combat badges; and disapproval and downgrade authority for Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) recommendations. Additionally, GEN Petraeus is authorized to further delegate his awards authority to subordinate U.S. Army commanders, as indicated below.

a. In accordance with paragraphs 7-14 and 7-15 of Ref A, General Petraeus is authorized to award the VUA and MUC to battalions, and smaller or comparable units under his command. All other unit award recommendations must be forwarded to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command (USA HRC) for processing. This authority will

not be further delegated. Copies of all approved unit awards (certificates, citations and orders) will be forwarded to USA HRC for coordination with the U.S. Army Center of Military History and confirmation in the Department of the Army General Orders. All recommendations for award of the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) must be forwarded to USA HRC for staffing to the Secretary of the Army, for final decision.

b. General Petraeus may delegate to the Army Lieutenant General (LTG) commanding Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) authority to award the SS and lesser decorations (except Legion of Merit (LM)) for U.S. and foreign military personnel assigned, attached or OPCON to MNC-I. This authority will not be further delegated.

c. Bronze Star Medal and Lesser Decorations. General Petraeus may delegate to Army commanders in the ranks of Major General (MG), or Brigadier Generals (BG) in a MG commander position, and above, authority to award the Bronze Star Medal (BSM) and lesser decorations for U.S. military personnel to under their command; and to Army commanders in the ranks of Colonel (COL) and above the authority to award the Army Commendation Medal to U.S. military personnel under their command.

d. Disapproval Authority. General Petraeus may delegate disapproval authority for U.S. Army decorations to Army commanders, provided those subordinate commanders have approval authority for the next lower award. General Petraeus may also delegate disapproval authority for the combat badges to Army commanders in the ranks of COL and above.

e. As an exception to policy, the Army G-1 authorized award of the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) and Army Achievement Medal (AAM) in the combat theater for noncombat service or achievement. General Petraeus may delegate to Army commanders in the ranks of BG and above authority to award the MSM to U.S. military personnel under their command, and Army commanders in the ranks of LTC and above authority to award the AAM.

f. Army Awards to Foreign Military Personnel. General Petraeus may award Army decorations (except Legion of Merit) to members of the Armed Forces of friendly foreign nations in the rank of COL or equivalent, and below, after appropriate clearances are received from respective U.S. embassies and the provisions of references A and B are met. This authority may be further delegated to the Army LTG commanding MNC-I. All other recommendations will be forwarded with appropriate concurrences, to USA HRC for processing.

g. Purple Hearts. General Petraeus may delegate to Army commanders in the ranks of BG and above authority to award the PH to eligible Soldiers under their command that are wounded as the direct result of enemy action. The PH may also be awarded to Soldiers wounded or killed in action by friendly fire. In accordance with Section 1131, Title 10, USC, the PH may only be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States. The PH is no longer authorized for award to U.S. civilians. Requests for award of the PH that cannot be determined will be forwarded through MNF-I to USA

HRC, ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St, Alexandria, VA 22332, for decision. Additionally, those commanders delegated PH approval authority are no longer authorized to revoke approved PHs. As outlined in reference D, all requests for revocation of an approved PH must be forwarded through MNF-I to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA) for processing.

h. Combat Badges. General Petraeus may delegate to Army commanders in the ranks of BG and above authority to award the CIB, CMB and CAB. The CIB may be awarded only to Infantry and Special Forces officers and enlisted Soldiers who satisfactorily perform Infantry or Special Forces duties in active ground combat. The CMB may be awarded to medical personnel (not to include Special Forces medics and members assigned or attached to Aviation units) who satisfactorily perform medical duties while the ground combat unit is engaged in active ground combat, provided they are personally present and under fire. The CAB may be awarded to any Soldier (not to include Soldiers assigned/attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the CIB/CMB) that is actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy. When contemplating eligibility for the CAB, approval authorities must take in consideration the proximity of the Soldier to the impacted area and whether the Soldier could have been reasonably injured by the blast, detonation or explosion. Battle or campaign participation credit alone will not be the basis for award of the CIB, CMB nor the CAB. Award of the CIB, CMB and CAB for Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) fall under the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) conflict. As prescribed in reference A, subsequent awards of the CIB, CMB, and CAB are not authorized for the same qualifying conflict. Therefore, subsequent awards of the CIB, CMB, and CAB are not authorized for participation in OEF and/or OIF. For example, a Soldier who earned the CIB during OEF will not be awarded a second CIB during OIF.

2. Recommendations for the Medal of Honor will be forwarded through MNF-I and CENTCOM to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA), for further processing. Recommendations for award of the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, and PUC will be forwarded through CG, MNF-I to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA) for further processing.

3. Posthumous Awards. To ensure timely presentation to the next-of-kin at funerals, all recommendations for wartime decorations (eg, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal) will be submitted on a DA Form 638 and forwarded through the C1, MNF-I to USA HRC (AHRC-PDO-PA) for processing. The USA HRC will automatically award posthumous PHs for eligible Soldiers. Additionally, as outlined in reference F, the completed AR 15-6 collateral investigation must be submitted with all posthumous valor award recommendations.

4. The Army Superior Unit Award is a peacetime award and will not be awarded for service in the wartime theater of operations.

5. Reference C outlines procedures for awarding wartime decorations to members of the other U.S. Armed Forces.

6. To preserve the integrity of the Army awards program and to ensure meaningful recognition for truly deserving Soldiers, special care should be exercised so that military decorations for meritorious and valorous achievement or service are only approved for those service members who truly distinguish themselves among their comrades by exceptional performance in combat or in support of combat operations.

7. Awards presented in recognition of service for valor and achievement must be accurately recorded to ensure data is captured for historical and policy evaluation purposes. The number of decorations awarded will be included in a monthly report indicating awards presented by category (valor, service, or achievement), and by component (Active, Reserve, and National Guard). A by-name alphabetical listing of all valor awards should be incorporated. Reports must be forwarded to the Military Awards Branch (awards@conus.army.mil) in a timely manner. A report is required to be submitted monthly NLT the 15th of the following month. Commands with Silver Star (SS) and above approval authority are required to provide copies of approved SS certificate, citation, DA Form 638 and narrative directly to the USA HRC, Military Awards Branch (wartime.awards@hoffman.army.mil), as soon as the award is approved.

8. The authority to award wartime awards will be reviewed regularly as the tactical situation dictates and automatically terminates 180 days after completion of combat operations. Further delegation will be authorized if deemed appropriate by the Army leadership. Commanders delegated wartime awards approval authority by GEN Petraeus will retain that authority only while they remain in the theater of operations. Upon re-deployment, commanders will have 90 days to complete all awards that were put in to channels prior to termination of wartime awards approval authority. After that time, wartime award recommendations will be forwarded through the unit's peacetime chain of command to USA HRC for processing.

9. Requests for campaign participation credit and campaign streamers must be processing in accordance with reference G.

10. Requests for Assault Landing Credit, Combat Infantry Streamers and Combat Medical Streamers must be processed in accordance with reference A.

11. There are three campaign medals authorized for the GWOT conflict (Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal). The criteria for these medals can be found in reference A. Service stars are not authorized at this time.

12. For clarification of guidance provided, contact the Military Awards Branch at awards@conus.army.mil or visit the website at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/awards/index.htm>.